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Mayor Healy Signs Executive Order Adopting Recommendations of Independent Legal Audit for Tax Exemption Committee

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy** announced today that he has signed an **Executive Order** that adopts several recommendations for the **Tax Exemption Committee** as set forth by an independent legal audit conducted last fall.

“By signing this Executive Order we are not only making the process more transparent, but we are also ensuring that any and all tax abatements receive a thorough and public evaluation prior to submission to the City Council,” said **Mayor Healy**. “We believe that this is a positive step in further reassuring the public confidence in what we know is already a sound development process. We believe this can only make our great city flourish even further.”

The Executive Order requires that any applicant will have to demonstrate to the Committee that the tax exemption is critical to the success of the project and that the project will provide clearly articulated social and economic benefits for the residents and businesses of the city. The Executive Order also mandates a public and critical evaluation of any application for all tax exemptions before it is sent to the Municipal Council for approval or disapproval.

Additionally, the Executive Order expands the information that an applicant will be required to submit in order to have its application considered and requires that the meetings be advertised, open to the public, and recorded in accordance with Open Public Meetings Act.

Mayor Healy also felt it was necessary to reconstitute the Tax Exemption Committee by adding a labor representative and establishing clear criteria for membership, such as adding a requirement that all members comply with the City’s Ethical Standards Code, file annual Financial Disclosure Statements with the City Clerk and undergo periodic ethics training.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///